

FIGHTING AT SEA

The Terrible Battle Between a Whale and Three Orcas.

Exempts Before Whom the Giant of the Ocean Flees in Terror—Their Singular Method of Attacking the Monster.

Hank Welsh, who has followed whaling for many years, was lucky enough to be one of a crew beyond the gulf of the Holy Cross last spring that came upon a large whale in distress, surrounded by three monster orcas, or killers, which had him winded and badly wounded. The story of the fight was told as follows by Welsh to the San Francisco Chronicle:

"We saw a big broadhead half a mile away to windward, and he kept a jumping so hard that we knew he was in trouble. When we got closer we saw some thrashers or killers afloat of him, and the water for an acre or two around was bloody. The orcas were pretty big ones and very vicious, especially one which was fully twenty feet long, and when the whale went down a few fathoms this old boy rushed to him, and gave it to him hard. You see a whale can stay under about half an hour, and he can go down four or five hundred fathoms without minding the pressure, but he can't do a single submarine trick ahead of an orca. These orcas sometimes chase a whale so hard that when he hits the bottom he breaks his jawbone. Well, this old orca followed the whale so savagely that he did not stay down over five minutes at a time, and when he came up he was jumped on by the other two, which kept watch on him like two hungry wolves. When he saw the ferocious gang he seemed to lose heart, for they were too quick for him. I think he was just about worn out or down-hearted or something, for he anchored for a second. This gave the big orca a chance to slide up and catch him by the under lip and bite a piece out. The old fellow lashed and dived, but down went another orca after him."

"When the whale came up the orca had him by the lip, and the third one caught him by the tongue. Now, a whale's tongue is six feet long and weighs as much as a man. The way the orcas jerked it all out of him piece by piece and then ate it off his lower lip in spite of all he could do to beat all the fights under the sun. How that whale did suffer till we got up and let a dynamite bomb into him. When Bill Peters lashed him he seemed to enjoy it, for he turned over and died easily. It seems to be agreed among all whalers that no fight ever seen equals the awful combats which these sea monsters wage against one another with undying ferocity. The orca is the only grampus with blooded animal of the ocean that constantly preys upon warm-blooded creatures of his own kind, preferably the whale, the largest of his species. The orca's habits are predatory and his strength and ferocity are remarkable."

"The orcas often travel with swordfish," said Capt. Thompson, an old whaler, "and I have sometimes seen a whole school in combat with four or five orcas and a few swordfish. When the swordfish get under a whale and the orcas commence to tear his under lip and tongue, which are choice morsels for them, he seems to know his days are numbered. I don't know how long a whale can live after these savage creatures attack him, but our crews have found several carcasses of whales which had died to death from the wounds thus inflicted by their enemies. I have also seen broken-backed orcas which had been struck by a whale's flukes."

THE INDIAN AS A FIGHTER.
He likes warfare, excels in it and is an excellent marksman.
"The Indian is the most vicious fighter on earth," said Maj. Barbour, late press agent of the world's fair, but a former plainsman, to a Washington Post reporter. "You read in the accounts of the South African war where a hundred or two Englishmen go out and whip five or ten thousand black men. There is no uncivilized people on earth, no race which is utterly ignorant of what we call the science of war, that can for a minute compare with the Indians as warriors. No frontier general would think of leading his troops against a body of Indians where the odds were greatly against him. Why? Because the Indian is naturally a fighter and a marksman, and because he has been quick to learn what the white armies have taught him in warfare."

"Take that fight in which Sitting Bull was killed. That was a skirmish, it's true, but it illustrates my point. There were just sixteen men on each side. The battle lasted not over five minutes, and eight were killed on each side. Those Indian scouts rode straight through the camp of Sitting Bull, and engaged the old demon himself and fifteen of his picked warriors in a battle in which no man knew he had more than an even chance of surviving. 'I've seen them. They love to fight. Their ambition is to win glory in fighting. Their traditions urge them on to fight. It's their only really aristocratic business. They are physically well qualified to fight; they know how, and you can bet they do fight when they get at it.'"

Two of Queen Victoria's Fads.
Queen Victoria's conservative fondness for the things that are used to is shown in the fact that the little ivory paper knife with which to this day she cuts the pages of her new books was in her possession when she was a little princess. The cabins of the royal yacht are still brightened with the same old-fashioned rosebud chintz which her dead husband liked. The queen has a particular love for fresh air and sits in rooms so cold that no American woman could endure them. A fortnight ago she had her summer garden tent taken out of its winter quarters and sat in it in the garden for two hours or more for several consecutive days, signing official documents.

SHOT AT THE HEAVY MAN.
The Miners Didn't Propose to See the Maiden Perseuited.
We were playing in a small town back in the '70s, said a theatrical man, when our leading heavy man had rather a tough experience. All the miners were in the theater. Well, the heavy man had been persecuting a poor maiden through two acts. In the third act he came to the painful scene of the play. At last he said:

"I have you in my power and nothing on earth can save you. I, who was the slave, am now the master."
So saying he advanced toward his trembling victim.
"Mercy!" she moaned.
"Mercy?" he retorted. "You had no mercy for me, and I will have none for you."

At that moment a gruff voice was heard from the gallery:
"You blamed varmint, I'll settle with you!"

There was the crack of a pistol and a bullet whizzed near the heavy man.

"Put the son of a gun, boys!" shouted the voice, and a shower of bullets saluted the stage villain.

He didn't stop long. In the wing he met the stage manager, who was white with anger.
"You have broken up the scene," he said.

"Well!"
"Go back to the stage, sir, and wait for your exit."

"I guess not."
"I tell you I won't have the man in my company who is so easily discouraged. Go on with the scene, or you leave the company to-morrow."

That was serious. To be stranded in that forsaken town was calculated to make the heavy man apprehensive.
"I'll go back," he said.

He tore off his wig just before going on, and stepping down to the footlights with an injured expression of countenance, he said:

"Ladies and gentlemen (there were no ladies there, but that didn't matter), with your kind permission I will resume the scene. Before doing so, however, I want to call your attention to the fact that the young lady and myself are merely acting parts. In reality, we are the best of friends. I bear no ill will for your display of heroic chivalry. I trust, however, that you will curb your generous sentiments, for if you should hit me the play will be interrupted. If any of the gentlemen will meet me after the show they will find out I am not such a bad fellow."

Loud cheers greeted this speech, and the play was resumed.—Toledo Blade.

DANGERS IN THE MINES.
Small Pay for Men Who Are Likely at Any Time to Be Suffocated.
Great and mystically dreadful is the earth from a mine's depth, says McClure's Magazine. Man is in the implacable grasp of nature. It has only to tighten slightly and he is crushed like a bug. His loudest shriek of agony would be as potent as his final moan to bring help from that fair land that lies, like heaven, over his head. There is an insidious silent enemy in the gas. If the huge fanwheel on the top of the earth should stop for a brief period there is certain death, and a panic more terrible than any occurring where the sun has shone ensues down under the tons of rock. If a man may escape the gas, the floods, the "squeeze" of falling rock, the ears shooting through little tunnels, the precarious elevators, the hundred perils, there usually comes to him an attack of "miner's asthma" that slowly racks and shakes him into the grave. Meanwhile, he gets three dollars a day and his laborer one dollar.

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The Bank of Germany, like most other German public buildings, has a military guard to protect it. In a very strongly-fortified military fortress at Spandau is kept the great war treasure of the imperial government, part of the French indemnity, amounting to several million pounds.

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